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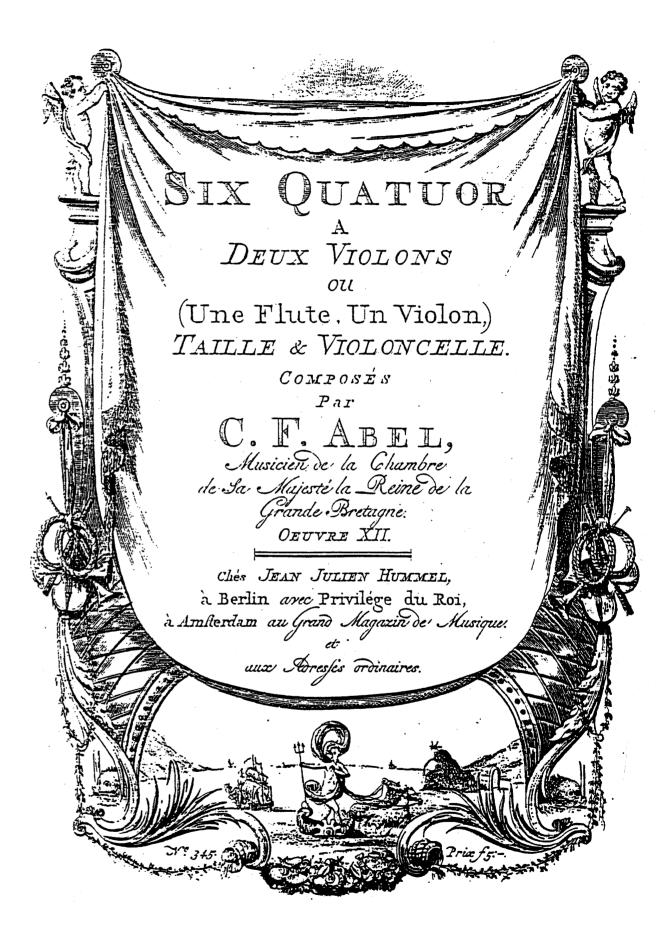
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VIOLIN I



VIOLINO O FLAUTO PRIMO







VIOLINO OFLAUTO PRIMO

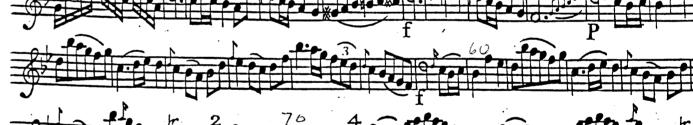


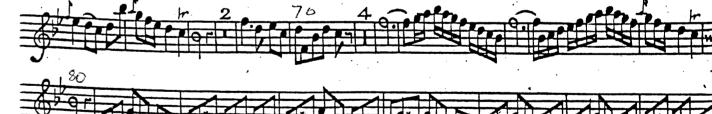






















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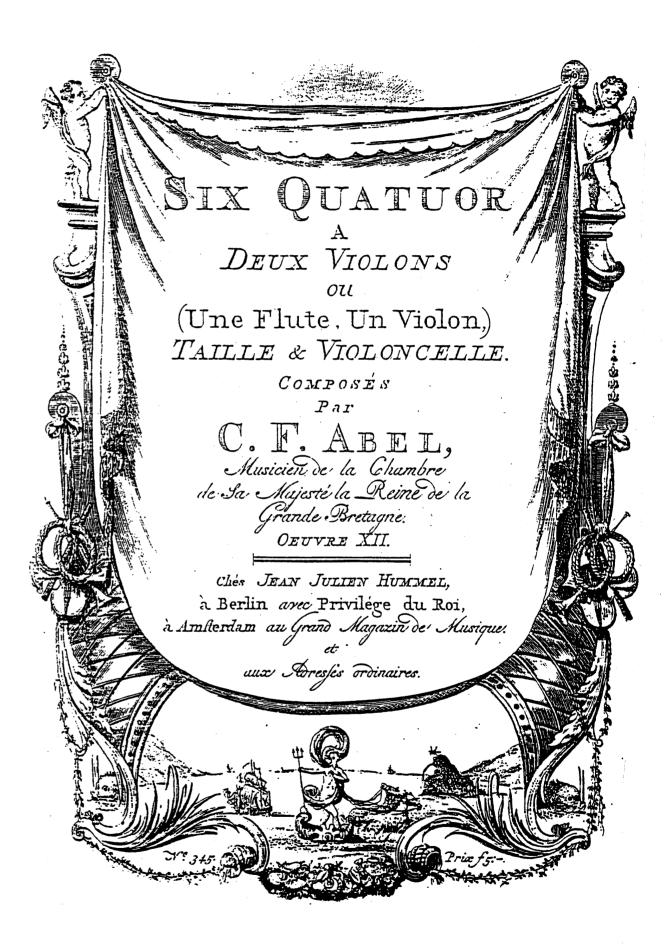
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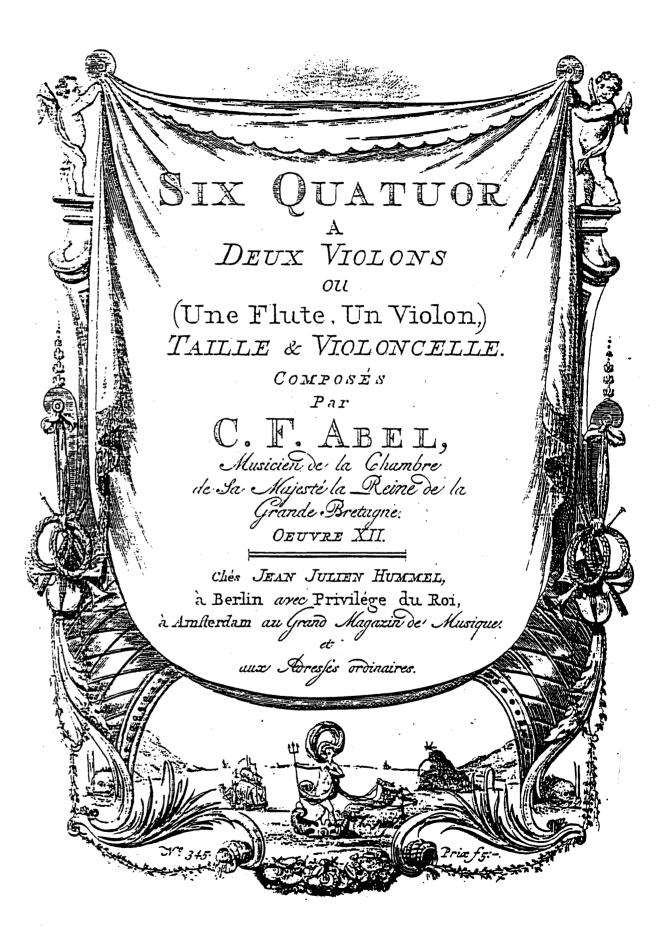
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VIOLA



V 1 O L A Allegro

V I O L A Andantino























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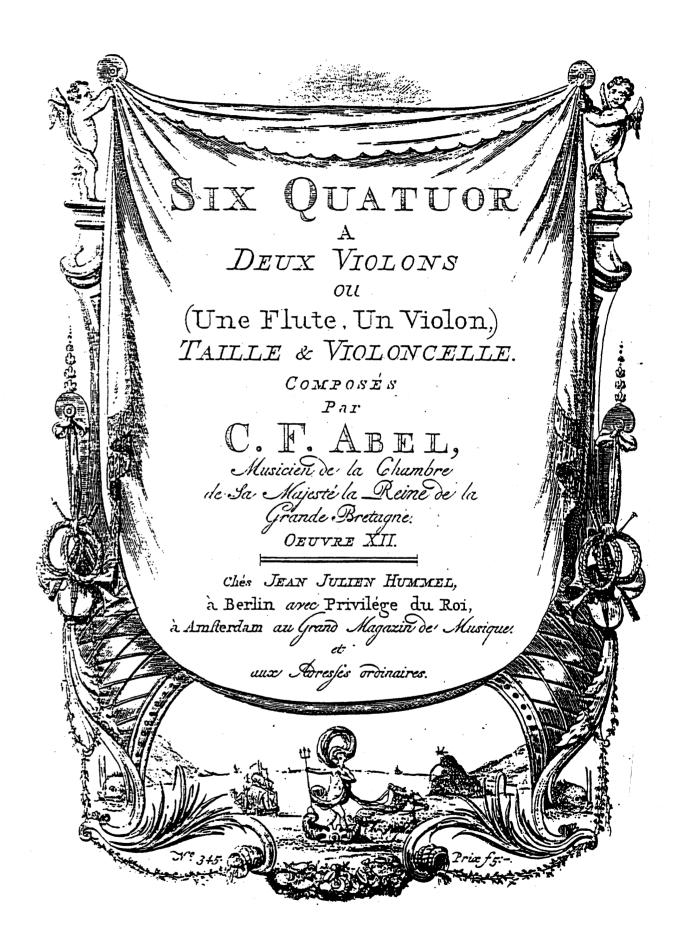
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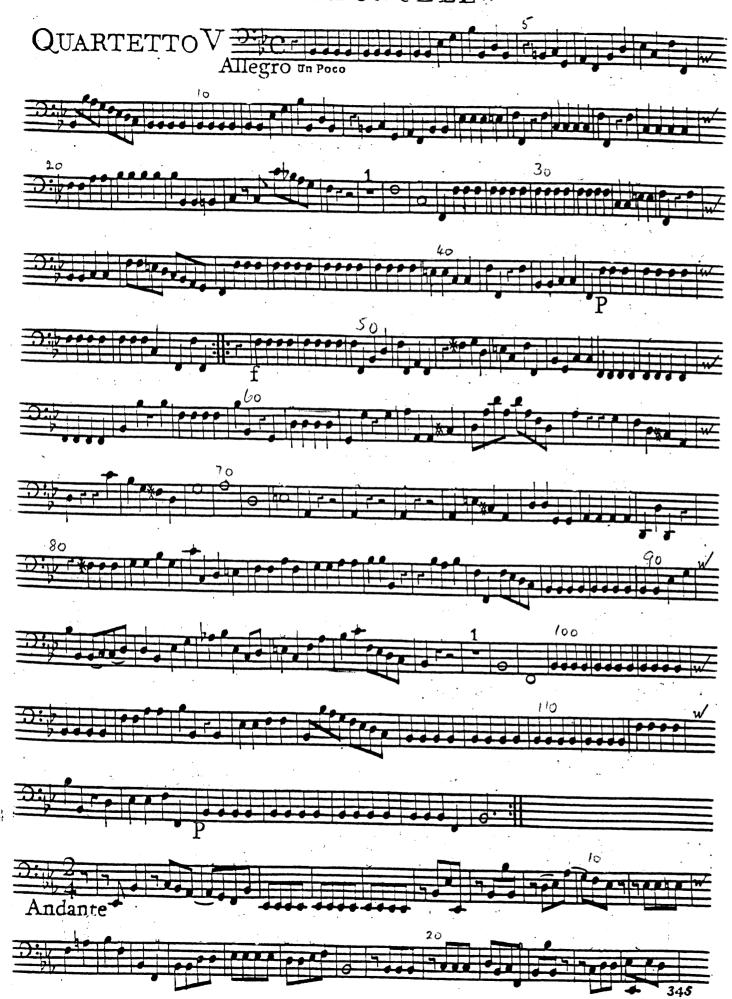




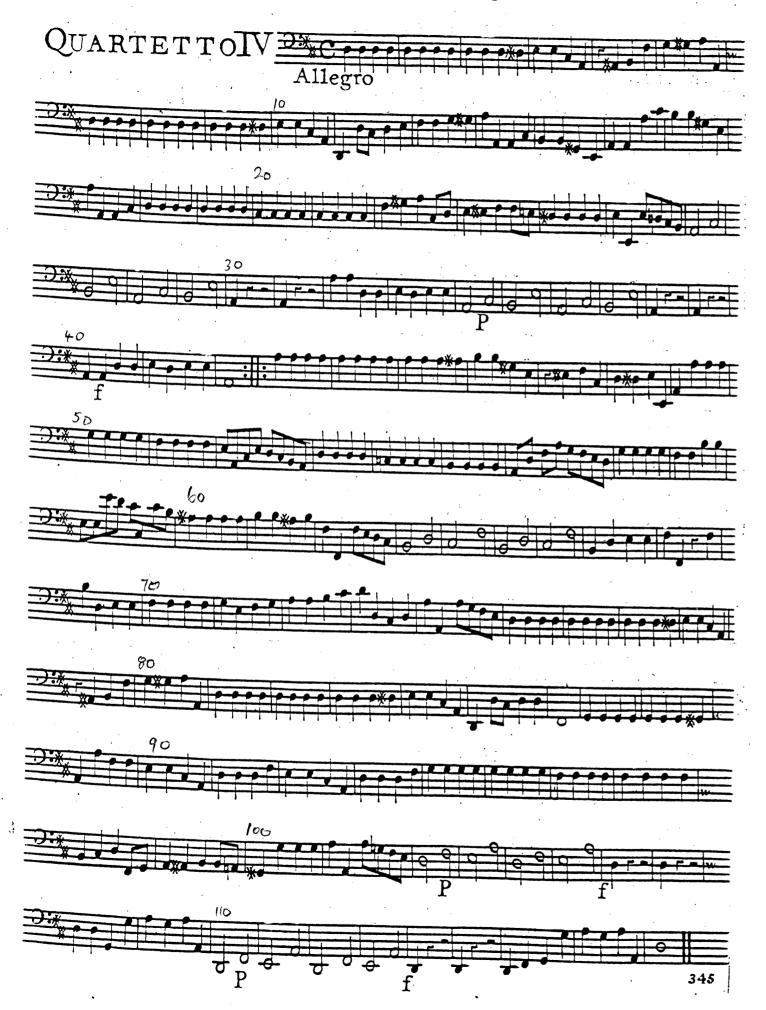














Karl Friedrich Abel (1725-1787) was a German viola da gamba player and composer, a pupil of his father and of J.S.Bach at Leipzig. His first position was with the Dresden court orchestra under Hasse but in 1759 he came to London, introducing himself to the public with a recital of his own compositions on gamba, harpsichord and the newly invented pentachord. He received assistance from the Duke of York and in 1865 became chamber musician to Queen Charlotte at a salary of £200 a year, When J. S. Bach's youngest son Johann Christian came to London in 1762 Abel joined him in promoting a series of public concerts at which Haydn's symphonies were given their first English performances. Together they acted as mentors to the boy Mozart when he was in London in 1764/5 and Mozart made a copy of Abel's Symphony in E flat Op.7, a work which was consequently regarded for many years as Mozart's own (K.18).

This Op. 12 set of quartets published in1775, three years after Haydn's Op.20 set, is interesting in shewing the persistence of the baroque trio sonata tradition into the classical string quartet period. Although only string instruments are specified on the title page the cello part was originally figured, indicating that the composer envisaged the possibility of the participation of a keyboard. And in playing them one must bear in mind that in that tradition an appoggiatura was used to indicate to the keyboard player that the note did not form part of the harmony It was not an ornament and should be played for its written length.

MERTON MUSIC

Carl Friedrich

A B E L

Six String Quartets
Op. 12

PARTS

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